Attachment No. 5 -- Copy of Wire Story

Science Today -- by Delos Smith -- UPI Science Editor

Louisville, Ky., March 29 -- (UPI) -- There shouldn't be a law prohibiting the smoking of cigarettes but there should be one requiring cigarette manufacturers to print the tars and nicotine contents of their products on every pack, in the opinion of a famous statistical scientist.

Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond is co-author of the Hammond-Horn study upon which is based much of the widespread conviction among scientists that cigarette smoking and lung cancer are directly connected. The Hammond-Horn report is one of the most frequently quoted statistical documents.

Prohibition would no more work against smoking than it worked against alcohol and anyway, he continued, his "high regard for individual freedom" makes him opposed to prohibition of cigarettes.

"Some sort of restriction on cigarette advertising might be considered but it would be difficult to enforce without restricting freedom of speech," he said. "However, I think that manufacturers should not only be allowed but required to make known the tar and nicotine content of their brands."

Hammond was one of the scientists who spoke on lung cancer at a seminar on cancer research sponsored by the American Cancer Society. He is the Society's director of statistical research.

Dr. Michael B. Shimkin, chief of biometrics and epidemiology of the National Cancer Institute, said the scientific case against cigarettes was a major "break-through" in the war against cancer.

"The elimination of the cigarette habit would reduce the incidence of lung cancer 60 per cent, a saving of some 20,000 deaths from lung cancer per year," he said.

Dr. Oscar Auerbach, author of another scientifically famous study, also was a member of the seminar's lung cancer panel. His study was of the sliced breathing tubes of 339 deceased men, 63 of whom had died of lung cancer. This study showed that pre-cancerous changes in the lung tissues of non-smokers were uncommon but increased progressively with increases in cigarette smoking. He had reported these findings before but he reported them again here.

All three scientists dismissed air pollution as an important factor in the rapid increase in lung cancers but Hammond said he was worried about the future.

"During the last few years there has been a tremendous increase in certain types of air pollution, particularly pollution from motor vehicle exhausts," he said. "I do not know whether or not this will result in an increased rate of lung cancer in future years. However, there is sufficient evidence to justify an intensive research program to determine whether such a risk actually exists, and if so to take action before irreparable damage is done."

He mentioned only one city specifically -- Los Angeles.

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